

embedding a distal end of an access tube into the outer surface;

drawing the access tube proximally to raise the wall over the anatomic space and to enlarge the anatomic space; and

introducing an access device through the access tube, penetrating the wall and into the anatomic space while the access tube stabilizes the wall.

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Remarks

This preliminary amendment is to clarify that claim 21, as filed, was an independent claim and to respond to a Notice of Omitted Items.

This application is a divisional application based on Serial No. 09/397,392, filed September 16, 1999. The present application includes claims 16-21 of the '392 application.

The filing receipt for this application inaccurately states that only one independent claim was filed within the application. That is incorrect. There are two independent claims -claims 16 and 21. This preliminary amendment clarifies that claim 21 is an independent claim and, in particular, the reference in claim 21 to cancelled claim 1 has been deleted and substitute language has been added.

In the Notice of Omitted Items, Figure 7B is listed as having been omitted from this application, as filed. In response to this